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# DAYLILIES

(HEMEROCALLIS)

1949

*Introducing:*

## TIGER EYE AND TOWN HILL



RICHARD JOHNSON

**SHREWSBURY GARDENS**

CUTTINGSVILLE, VERMONT

# Shrewsbury Gardens . . . .

comes into active being -this spring of 1949 with the initial introduction of TIGER EYE and TOWN HILL daylilies. Behind these are nine years of selective hybridizing.

Two years ago, visiting in Vermont, I walked through a dense sugar bush on a lovely woods road which seemed to be leading nowhere, past the weathered sugar house and out onto a meadowed crest with what seemed the whole of Vermont spread out before me. There was a deserted old house. It was here the road led and here it ended. A little exploration proved the land to be in fine tilth, having been worked carefully and well as part of the adjacent farm, and the old house, though tumbled in here and there, looked sound enough of sill and beam to be the foundation of a solid home and business. With confidence in what was developing among my seedlings, building strains away from the average run of progression in hybridization, I moved myself and the flowers onto this rich meadow acreage. Here we are setting down deep roots and it is my hope that before too very long I, with their backing, will have made SHREWSBURY GARDENS a rewarding livelihood.

The first year was a revelation to me as far as growing weather is concerned. The season is barely shorter anywhere in the country than it is on this high hillside, 1700 feet above the sea and 1200 feet above the Otter Valley it looks down upon. Coming up Route 7 in April, with spring a green haze within the valley, a look up at the high hills on the right shows the winter-long snow still in possession. Then, two weeks later, spring comes to Shrewsbury with a rush. Here it doesn't strip off the last vestige of snow blanket until the earth itself is ready to warm up and stay in prime working condition. Having seen the early spring flowers bloom and pass in the valley, here it is all to see again. To have two comings of spring within a five mile radius is wonderful, for there can never be enough of them in any one lifetime.

More important than this, practically speaking, is the fact that when these hillside plants come up from under their mulch of snow much later than most of New England they are charged with vitality, ready to be moved while still practically dormant into gardens where the early spring has passed and a place is prepared and waiting for them, the earth warm and receptive. Since these plants have not known alternate freezings and thawings or having tender rootlets pulled and broken by heaving they set right to work establishing themselves in their new places for increasing beauty year by year.

The daylilies themselves have been selected with great care. Many top-named ones have been weeded out as doubtful performers while other varieties have proved their fine stamina and been so increased that they may be offered reasonably. My first two introductions at SHREWSBURY GARDENS, TIGER EYE and TOWN HILL, are of sturdy strain and fully worthy of being the initial offerings in what will be, I hope, an important series of daylilies to which a carefully culled small number of worthy originations will be added year by year.

TIGER EYE has famous forebears such as BUCK-EYE, the tender JUBILEE and strong MIKADO as well as the sturdy seedlings of Vermont in its ancestry. It arrives as a hardy deciduous plant with firm slim foliage to set off the well-spaced blooms of deep chrome with a brilliant chimney-red eye-zone. Here is a plant which stays compact, is hardy as an oak on the side-heights of the Green Mountains and which, upon establishment, goes to work to make its corner or piece of the border a challenging accent in mid-summer. It deserves to stand alone.

TOWN HILL is a softer and more pliant flower, of delicate nasturtium red shading down through aureolin yellow to a rich chartreuse throat. Here is a flower to be loved, carefully placed so its soft richness is not washed down by more strident neighbors. As a focal center for the good yellow and gold varieties it is superb.

So, herewith, my list for 1949, headed by my own first two introductions which are followed by a group of named varieties of daylilies, each and every one of which is worthy of a place in any sort of garden from the simplest dooryard to the most extensive estate. I shall hope that you will be interested in making some of these hardy Vermont plants your own this year and that as they establish themselves for you they will make you look forward to other fine things to come in other years such as the dark and handsome CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT and the soft flushed loveliness of SALT ASH. But there, I'm getting ahead of myself!

RICHARD JOHNSON

## *Introductions for 1949 . . . .*

TIGER EYE (Johnson 1949). As the name suggests this is a brilliantly eyed daylily; a deep chrome recurved flower with a handsome chimney-red eye-zone. It is well-branched and floriferous. Tiger Eye is exceptional in that, in full-day sun, it has an almost chameleon quality of lightening to a chamouis buff while the texture of the petals remains as crisp as when first opening in the morning. 36 in. July-August.

\$5.00

**TOWN HILL** (Johnson 1949). The charm of this beautifully blended flower is enhanced by its boldly recurved and crinkled petals. These are of nasturtium rose and seem to burst from the aureolin rim of the chartreuse throat. The petals are neatly tailored by the thin aureolin pencilling carried through to the tips. The well-branched flower stalks are carried high above the abundant foliage. 48 in. July-August. \$6.50

## A Selected List of Daylilies

**AMARYLLIS** (Betscher 1932). Large golden flowers with recurved petals. 36 in. July-August. \$0.50

**AUGUST PIONEER** (Stout 1939). Chrome orange, delicate red flush on petals. 36 in. August-September. \$1.00

**BAGDAD** (Stout 1935). Clear orange throat, outer petals copper red over orange veins, madder-brown midzone. Fragrant. 40 in. July-August. \$1.00

**BIJOU** (Stout 1935). Semi-dwarf, well-branched for a profusion of bloom. Orange overcast with fulvous red, darker mid-zone. 24 in. July-August. \$1.00

**BOUTONNIERE** (Stout 1939). Profusion of small flowers with widely overlapping segments. Sepals clear yellow; petals rosy peach with light mid-stripe. Grassy foliage. 36 in. August-September. \$1.00

**BRUNETTE** (Stout). The earliest dark-zoned flower. Yellow orange throat, dark madder mid-zone, outside a lighter tan red. Small full flowers on branching stems. Good evenings. 28 in. May-June. \$2.75

**BUCKEYE** (Stout). Full clear orange, large mahogany-red eye. Non-branching, bunched flowers. Good evenings. 36 in. July-August. \$1.50

**CINNABAR** (Stout). Long, full blooming season. Orange base, sprinkled with cinnamon and gold. Recurving petals and sepals. Fragrant. 30 in. July \$0.75

**CIRCE** (Stout). Tall. Light yellow medium-sized flowers on well-branched scapes. Lovely when established with the more delicately colored phlox. 40 in. July-August. \$1.00

**CRESSIDA-GYPSY** (Betscher 1929). Glistening deep orange with tinge of fulvous red undercast toward the throat. One of the finest daylilies. 36 in. July-August. \$0.75

**DOMINION** (Stout). Extra large richly red-colored flowers in a concentric three-toned pattern. Good evenings. 40 in. June-July. \$2.75

**FESTIVAL** (Stout). An enchanting bi-color. Sepals brown-orange, petals English-red with darker veins and bright orange mid-rib. Fragrant. Open evenings. 40 in. July-August. \$2.75



GEM, THE (Betscher 1929). Deep yellow flowers of excellent form. 40 in. July-August. \$0.50

GEORGE YELD (Perry 1930). Large recurving orange flowers, suffused with bronze apricot and brown-rose. 40 in. July-August. \$0.50

GOLDEN BELL (Wallace 1915). A standard rich yellow with broad overlapping segments. Fragrant. 36 in. July-August. \$0.75

HYPERION (Mead 1930). One of the most popular. Waxy soft canary yellow. A superior daylily in size, form, color and substance. 40 in. July. \$0.75

J. A. CRAWFORD (Betscher 1929). Apricot and cadmium yellow, fluted and crimped. Very sturdy. 48 in. July-August. \$0.50

J. R. MANN (Betscher 1929). Large buff yellow, delicately frosted. 40 in. July-August. \$0.50

J. S. GAYNER (Yeld 1928). Open funnel-shaped flowers in rich golden apricot. Fragrant. 40 in. July-August. \$0.75

LINDA (Stout 1937). Large blooms; crinkled petals of golden yellow with rosy cinnamon flecking, clear yellow sepals. A beauty. 40 in. July-August. \$1.00

LUTEOLA MAJOR. Rounded petals of unfading yellow. 36 in. July-August. \$0.50

MANDARIN (Farr 1924). Clear lemon yellow flower, open and recurved. Segments narrow and spider-like. Lovely and effective. 40 in. July-August. \$0.75

MARGARET PERRY (Perry 1925). Bright orange-red, yellow throat and mid-lines. Free-flowering and spreading. 48 in. July-August. \$0.50

MIDAS (Stout 1935). Medium large glowing orange, excellent form on strong erect scapes. 40 in. July-August. \$0.75

MIKADO (Stout 1930). Rich orange with conspicuous mahogany-red spot on each petal. The most popular Stout daylily. 36 in. June-July. \$0.50

MINOR (Species). A lovely clear yellow. Fine low accent for the front of the border or in the rock garden. 18 in. May-June. \$0.50

MRS. W. H. WYMAN (Betscher 1929). Softly glistening yellow for late season beauty. 40 in. August. \$0.50

OPHIR (Farr 1924). Waxy golden yellow flowers for the back of the border. 50 in. July-August. \$0.75

PATRICIA (Stout 1935). Pale lemon yellow with greenish throat. Large shapely full flowers of pronounced fragrance. \$1.25

RAJAH (Stout 1935). English-red, garnet eye-zone, greenish orange throat. Good evenings. 40 in. July-August. \$0.75

**SACHEM** (Stout 1941). Dark carmine red, orange throat in handsome contrast. Holds color in sun and heat better than most dark varieties. Fragrant. 40 in. July-August. \$2.75

**SERENADE** (Stout 1937). Pastel yellow and pink. Petals twisted and crinkled with a faint halo. This belongs toward the back of the border with Siberian irises. 48 in. June-July. \$1.25

**SOUDAN** (Stout). Medium-sized empire-yellow recurved flowers, charmingly creped and crinkled. Fragrant. Good evenings. 36 in. July-August. \$1.25

**SUNNY WEST** (Sass 1933). Pale canary yellow night-flowering variety. One of the finest. 48 in. July-August. \$0.75

**THERON** (Stout 1934). Dark red purple, gold throat. Strikingly lovely in semi-shade. 30 in. July-August. \$2.50

**THUNBERGII** (Species). Fragrant pale yellow flowers. Good evenings. 48 in. July-August. \$0.50

**VESTA** (Stout 1930). Semi-dwarf; rich orange with glistening golden sheen. Fragrant. Good evenings. 30 in. July-August. \$0.75

**WOLOF** (Stout 1937). Velvet maroon flowers with light yellow mid-line and orange throat. 48 in. July-August. \$2.50

## Culture and Care of Daylilies

There has been much written on the culture of the daylily, ranging from very involved treatment to just sticking the plant in the ground where it is supposed to flourish with no attention whatsoever. Between these two extremes is the mean. A good garden soil that is neither extremely acid or sweet, whatever its texture, will suit the plant well. It will exist and perform normally in this medium. Proper use of composted manure or fertilizer makes an amazing difference, as it does with most plants. It is important that commercial fertilizer be used with discretion, a handful scratched into the ground surrounding the plant in the spring gives it tone and balance during the blooming season. When planting, a good bit of organic fertilizer worked into the soil often means a year less for it to reach peak blooming performance which generally may be counted on in the third year. Spreading the roots and setting the plant so that the union of foliage and root is one inch under the ground when properly settled is an essential. Too deep planting leads to slowing up proper development until it has adjusted itself.



The true quality of a daylily cannot be honestly judged until it has grown undisturbed for two years. It will be rewarding from the first bloom but the third summer shows what is actually possessed in beauty. Though it won't be a problem for years, when the plant becomes unduly crowded so that bloom is adversely affected, division should be drastic. All old roots which are no longer of use should be cleaned out, the young roots as well as the foliage reduced by half, then the plant re-set in prepared ground. Plants so handled, even if only moved five feet, will soon surpass plants divided and set with the entire root system untouched. They apparently like being challenged.

Daylilies need little care outside of careful weeding for the first year and as much as is needed for appearance's sake in following years. The rootlets come close to the surface and cultivation should be shallow. Unless they are planted in the autumn they are best off without any protection other than their own foliage which should be left with them until the spring clean-up. Diseases and insects bother them not at all with one exception. If they are planted too closely together there is the possibility of some trouble with thrips. Proper sprays for thrips may be used in this event but more space should be given as soon as possible for none but the small dwarf daylilies should be set closer than two feet apart.

Daylilies thrive in sun, but the darker ones are more truly lovely if they are partially shaded during the brightest hours of the day. Proper placement is a personal challenge. With careful choice of colors daylilies are handsome with irises, peonies, delphinium, phlox and chrysanthemums. The dark varieties should never be clumped together but built up as individuals through the use of the yellow and gold varieties. And so, good luck!



Shipment of daylilies will be made during the month of May and, on later orders, in August and September. Under certain conditions they may be sent out during the other summer months by special arrangement. Transportation is paid on all orders amounting to \$3.00 or more, otherwise please add 35c for packing and postage.



Join the **HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY** for rewarding information on daylilies. The Yearbook, containing exhaustive reports on the progress being made with this great flower is worth many times the yearly dues of \$3.00. Send dues to Mrs. Pearl Sherwood, Secretary, Atlantic, Iowa.

RICHARD JOHNSON

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CUTTINGSVILLE, VERMONT

**DAYLILIES**

(HEMEROCALLIS)

**1949**

**SPECIALTIES**

AND

**ORIGINATIONS**

**SHRUBS, PLANTS**

AND

**BULBS**

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